

August 30, 2013

To: Executive Board

Subject: **Donation of Retired Transit Buses**

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### **Recommendation**

Authorize the Executive Director to donate a maximum of six retired diesel-fueled transit coaches to The Community College Foundation to be used as mobile computer labs.

### **Analysis**

Foothill Transit recently received correspondence (**Attachment A**) from The Community College Foundation, requesting the donation of retired diesel-fueled transit buses for use in their Community Connect program. The Community College Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (EIN: 68-0016439) whose Community Connect program utilizes retired transit buses to create mobile computer labs that can “bring financial literacy training, community and veteran outreach, and disaster response assistance resources to targeted locations across the United States.”

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regulations allow a grantee of federal funds to retire a federally-funded transit bus that has reached a life of 12 years or 500,000 miles. Foothill Transit will soon be retiring the last diesel fueled coaches in the fleet and the first CNG coaches procured in 2002. These coaches all meet the FTA threshold for retirement and will be replaced with new CNG coaches and new Ecoliner all-electric coaches.

In accordance with FTA disposition guidelines contained in Circular 5010.1C, federally-funded buses must be disposed of using an open and competitive process, and therefore the sale of buses to a particular entity would be restricted. However, Foothill Transit is allowed to dispose of those vehicles eligible for retirement in accordance with FTA Circular 5010.1C Chapter II, Section 3 (EQUIPMENT), paragraph f (Disposition), item 4, excerpted below:

*Equipment with a unit market value of \$5,000 or less, or supplies with a total aggregate market value of \$5,000 or less, may be retained, sold or otherwise disposed of with no obligation to reimburse FTA, providing useful service life requirements have been met. Records of this action must be retained.*

Based on our most recent disposition of retired buses, the fair market value of the buses to be donated is estimated to be between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

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## Financial Impact

These vehicles have been fully depreciated. Donation of these buses will not negatively impact Foothill Transit's approved Business Plan and Budget.

Sincerely,



Kevin McDonald  
Deputy Executive Director

Attachment



Doran J. Barnes  
Executive Director



May 23, 2013

Mr. Kevin McDonald  
Deputy Executive Director  
Foothill Transit  
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Mr. McDonald,

I am contacting you on behalf of The Community College Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, in regard to the diesel city transit buses that are being retired by Foothill Transit.

We have a program called Community Connect that utilizes former city transit buses which we transform into eBuses. An eBus is a computer lab on wheels with broadband internet via satellite and cellular, 10 – 16 computer stations, on-board copiers, printers, etc (attached are some pictures). An eBus can bring financial literacy training, community and veteran outreach, and disaster response assistance resources to targeted locations across the United States.

A prime example of eBuses in action would be in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. In conjunction with our sponsors, we deployed 6 eBuses to the gulf coast to lend assistance. The infrastructure was in ruins and cell phones, cable, etc. were not available – so the eBuses with volunteers became a lifeline for the victims. The eBuses used their satellites to access the internet and allow people to get online with family, insurance companies and FEMA. The volunteers on board provided guidance on topics such as avoiding predatory lending, fraud prevention, home repair and rebuilding guidelines, avoiding foreclosure and more.

Our current fleet of buses is comprised of former Seattle City Transit / 1985 MANN buses which are reaching the point of no-return. Parts are either impossible to find, no longer manufactured or in the few cases where a part is still available it usually has to ship from Germany. This brings me to why I am writing to you.

Is there the possibility that Foothill Transit could donate retiring buses to our 501(c)(3) for appropriate recognition of your generosity?

I look forward to the opportunity to discuss any possibilities with you. I can be reached at 916-418-5115.

Respectfully,

Ingrid Jimenez  
Director of Community Connect / eBus  
The Community College Foundation

enclosure

**eBus Interior:  
Front to back**



**eBus Interior:  
Back to front**



**eBus Interior:  
Rear section**

